

Quality of foodgrains stored by FCI

161. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a World Bank study has revealed that half of FCI's grain stocks is at least two year old, 30 per cent between 2 to 4 years old and some grain stock as old as 16 years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the measures taken by Government to improve quality of foodgrains distributed through PDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) No such report has been received by the Food Corporation of India (FCI). However, age-wise position of foodgrains available with FCI as on 1st January, 2001 is as under:

(figures in lakh MTs)

Upto 2 years old	2 to 4 years old	More than 4 year old	Total
236.99	25.14	2.89	265.02

The percentage of more than two years old works out to 10.58%, of which 9.49% is 2 to 4 years old.

(c) The foodgrain stocks conforming to uniform (FAQ) specifications are procured for Central pool under the Minimum Support Price Scheme. Good quality foodgrain stocks, free from insect infestation and conforming to Prevention of Food Adulteration Act standards are issued under TPDS and other welfare scheme of the Government. State Governments/their

representatives are provided the opportunity of joint inspection of the stocks while taking delivery from the FCI.

Free distribution of foodgrains to poor

162. SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are finding it difficult to implement the decision of free distribution of foodgrains to the poor through Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to identify the poor who deserve free foodgrains;

(c) whether the flood and drought hit areas and other identified backward areas are proposed to be targeted under the scheme;

(d) if so, what steps have been or are being taken in this regard; and

(e) the quantity for foodgrains to be distributed free under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (e) Government has not taken any decision for free distribution of foodgrains to the poor through Public Distribution System. However, Government has allotted five lakh tonnes of foodgrains free of cost to seven drought affected States namely Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Rajasthan for organising various employment generation programmes in drought affected areas.